set up a Antarctic Study Centre at Vasco-da-Gama in Goa for which the Government of Goa has handed over the land to the Department of Ocean Development;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what is the present position regarding establishment of the centre and by when it would start functioning; and

(d) what would be the main features of the proposed study centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A plot of land of 18 acres has already been acquired in Goa for the Study Centre. The fencing of the land and boundary wall construction is going on.

(d) The Centre would provide both scientific and logistic support to the entire Antractic programme. The Centre will have laboratories, workshop, library, museum and an administrative wing. The laboratories will include disciplines of earth sciences, atmospheric sciences, ocean sciences and land ecology and microbiology.

Facilities for employees of Air Force Unit-run centres

3678. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of seats reserved for the wards of the employees of the Air Force Unit-run canteens in locally run schools;

(b) what is the amount reimbursed to these employees as medical expenses during the last two years, year-wise and canteen-wise,

(c) what are the details of children's parks provided for their wards and facilities for their engagement in cultural sports and hobby-clubs; and

(d) whether these employees are entitled to make purchases from CSD canteens without paying the sales tax; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) In locally run Air Force schools, there are no seats reserved for wards of particular categories of personnel, including the civilian employees of Air Force Unit-run Canteens.

(b) These empoyees are private employees, paid out of the "Non-Public" Funds, and are not entitled to payment of medical expenses out of these Funds.

(c) Children's parks, cultural and sports facilities and hobby centres at Air Force Stations are available to the children of all categories of personnel, including the civilian employees of unit-run canteens.

(d) These employees are entitled to make purchases from CSD canteens. The concession of exemption from Sales Tax is granted by certain States on purchases made by Service personnel from CSD canteens. These exemptions are not available to any category of civilian employees.

Reservation for SC/ST employees in the Central Governments undertakings

3679 SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide reservation in promotions to the employees of SCs and STs; and

(b) if so, whether it applies to the Central Government undertakings?